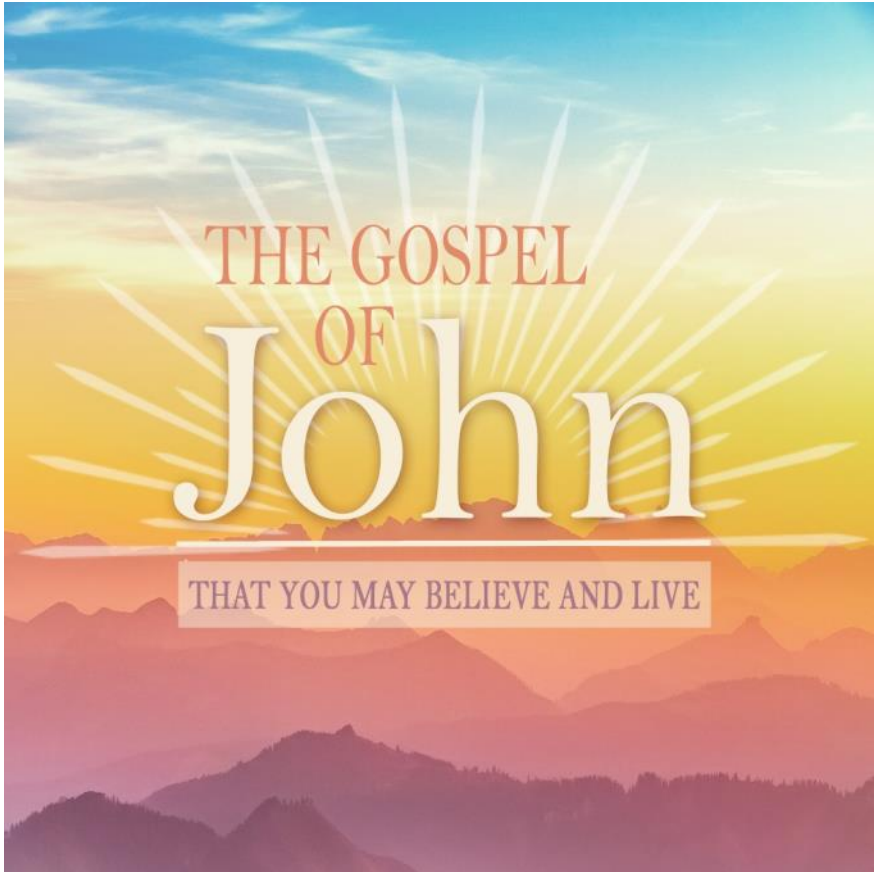




Ascension PCA

July 28, 2024



A community of worshipping, maturing,
and multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ,
to the glory of God the Father,
by the power of His Spirit,
and in the hope of God's Kingdom.

WELCOME TO ASCENSION!

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

**We are delighted that you are here,
especially if this is your first time with us.**

Connect with One Another:

We would love to know that you were here this morning and encourage you to fill in a *Connect Card* so that we can follow up with you, answer your questions, or pray for you. Our practice of wearing *Name Tags* is to make you feel more comfortable among us, help you to identify staff and leadership, and make it easier for you to connect with us. See our back page for contact information. We heartily invite you to join us for *refreshments* and conversation after the service.

To Parents of Young Children:

If you would like to utilize it, we have a staffed *Nursery* for children through age 3 across the hall. We encourage younger children to remain with us during the service. They are not a distraction! *Clipboards for kids* are available to encourage our children to participate in our worship together. Stop by the special Kids Table to pick up clipboards and crayons for your child. Feel free to sit up front where your child can more easily see and hear what is happening.

Free Biblical Resources:

If you don't have a copy of God's Word, please help yourself to one of the free Bibles as our gift for you to take home. You are also welcome to browse the literature and resources available to you on the Welcome Table, carts, and stands.

Joyfully worshipping together
as the family of God,
with reverence and awe,
mindful of our heritage
as well as our present context.



A WORD ABOUT OUR LITURGY

The elements and sequence that make up our worship service (the liturgy) is the way we tell ourselves, one another, and all in this place, the grand story of the Triune God:

the story of God pursuing a people despite their wanderings and forgetfulness, and shaping them into His people for His glory.

QUIETING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

*Jesus is no longer visible upon earth;
but He has promised His spiritual presence
to abide with His word, ordinances, and people,
to the end of time.*

*Weary and heavy laden souls have now no need
to take a long journey to seek Him,
but He is always near them,
and in a spiritual manner,
where His Gospel is preached . . .*

Therefore, come unto Him.

That is, raise your hearts,

and breathe forth your complaints to Him ...

*He is just such a Savior as your circumstances require,
as you yourself could wish for.*

~ John Newton

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

We gather at the invitation of God through His Word.
He speaks first, revealing Himself to us,
and we respond with one voice in joy and thanksgiving!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Ephesians 1

M: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is good and right to do so.

**Praise be to the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ...
...for He chose us in Him
before the creation of the world
to be holy and blameless in His sight.**

**In love He predestined us
to be adopted as His sons
through Jesus Christ,
in accordance with His pleasure and will —
to the praise of His glorious grace
which He has freely given us
in the One He loves.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

**Praise to the Lord,
the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is
thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord,
who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings,
yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
granted in what He ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord,
who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee,
Decked thee with health and with loving hand
guided and stayed thee.
How oft in grief hath not He brought thee relief,
spreading His winds to o'er shade thee.**

**Praise to the Lord,
O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before Him.
Let the amen sound from His people again,
gladly fore'er we adore Him!
Let the amen sound from His people again,
gladly fore'er we adore Him!**

Words by Joachim Neander (1680); tr. by Catherine Winkworth (1863).
Music from *Straslund Gesangbuch* (1665).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

I Will Wait for You (Psalm 130)

**Out of the depths I cry to You,
in darkest places I will call,
incline Your ear to me anew,
and hear my cry for mercy, Lord.**

**Were You to count my sinful ways,
how could I come before Your throne?
yet, full forgiveness meets my gaze,
I stand redeemed by grace alone.**

*I will wait for You, I will wait for You,
on Your word I will rely.*

*I will wait for You, surely wait for You
till my soul is satisfied.*

**So put Your hope in God alone,
take courage in His power to save,
completely and forever won
by Christ emerging from the grave.**

*I will wait for You, I will wait for You,
on Your word I will rely.*

*I will wait for You, surely wait for You
till my soul is satisfied.*

**Now He has come to make a way,
and God Himself has paid the price,
that all who trust in Him today
find healing in His sacrifice.**

***I will wait for You, I will wait for You
through the storm and through the night.
I will wait for You, surely wait for You,
for Your love is my delight.***

***I will wait for You, I will wait for You
through the storm and through the night.
I will wait for You, surely wait for You,
for Your love is my delight.***

Words and music by
Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matthew Merker, Stuart Townend
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Townend Songs

GOD CLEANSSES US

We gather each week as sinners in constant need of His mercy. The corporate confession of sin acknowledges this and invites honest expression before God. However, God isn't silent as we cry out to Him — He assures us that His grace is bigger than our sin. God's forgiveness is for all those who humble themselves before Him in Christ Jesus.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 89:1-18

Elder Brett Chase

- 1 I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness
to all generations.
- 2 For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever;
in the heavens You will establish Your faithfulness."
- 3 You have said, "I have made a covenant with My chosen one;
I have sworn to David My servant:
- 4 "I will establish your offspring forever,
and build your throne for all generations.'" *Selah*
- 5 Let the heavens praise Your wonders, O LORD,
Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!
- 6 For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD?
Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD,
- 7 a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones,
and awesome above all who are around Him?
- 8 O LORD God of hosts,
who is mighty as You are, O LORD,
with your faithfulness all around You?

- 9 You rule the raging of the sea;
when its waves rise, You still them.
- 10 You crushed Rahab like a carcass;
You scattered Your enemies with Your mighty arm.
- 11 The heavens are Yours; the earth also is Yours;
the world and all that is in it, You have founded them.
- 12 The north and the south, You have created them;
Tabor and Hermon joyously praise Your name.
- 13 You have a mighty arm;
strong is Your hand, high Your right hand.
- 14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne;
steadfast love and faithfulness go before You.
- 15 Blessed are the people who know the festal shout,
who walk, O LORD, in the light of Your face,
- 16 who exult in Your name all the day
and in Your righteousness are exalted.
- 17 For You are the glory of their strength;
by Your favor our horn is exalted.
- 18 For our shield belongs to the LORD,
our king to the Holy One of Israel.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Almighty and most merciful Father,
we are thankful that Your mercy is
higher than the heavens,
wider than our wanderings,
deeper than all our sin.**

**Forgive our careless attitudes
toward Your purposes,
our refusal to relieve the suffering of others,
our envy of those who have more than we have,
our obsession with creating a life
of constant pleasure,
our indifference to the treasures of heaven,
our neglect of Your wise and gracious law.**

**Help us to change our way of life
so that we may desire what is good,
love what You love,
and do what You command,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

*In these moments, we confess our personal sins to God
so that we may take hold of the forgiveness
won for us by Christ, our Redeemer.*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: Take comfort in the assurance
that even those things
that are hidden from memory,
or are too deep for our words,
are not beyond God's forgiving love.
God, who knows us completely,
bestows pardon and peace through Jesus Christ.

P: Thanks be to God.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Christ Our Hope In Life And Death

What is our hope in life and death?

Christ alone, Christ alone.

What is our only confidence?

That our souls to Him belong.

Who holds our days within His hand?

What comes apart from His command?

And what will keep us to the end?

The love of Christ, in which we stand.

O sing hallelujah!

Our hope springs eternal;

O sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul?

God is good, God is good.

Where is His grace and goodness known?

In our great Redeemer's blood.

Who holds our faith when fears arise?

Who stands above the stormy trial?

Who sends the waves that bring us nigh

unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

O sing hallelujah!

Our hope springs eternal;

O sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death.

Unto the grave, what will we sing?

"Christ, He lives! Christ, He lives!"

And what reward will heaven bring?

Everlasting life with Him.

**There we will rise to meet the Lord,
then sin and death will be destroyed,
and we will feast in endless joy,
when Christ is ours forevermore.**

***O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.***

***O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.***

Words and music by Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell,
Matt Papa, Matthew Merker
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Your Enemies Publishing, Matthew Merker Music, Messenger Hymns

GOD SPEAKS TO US

The Holy Spirit makes the reading and preaching of God's Word
a crucial means of growing and comforting God's people
and awakening people to new faith in Jesus.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD

John 18:28–38

²⁸ Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?"

³⁰ They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered Him over to you." ³¹ Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and judge Him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." ³² This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death He was going to die.

³³ So Pilate entered His headquarters again and called Jesus and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about Me?" ³⁵ Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation

and the chief priests have delivered You over to me. What have You done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But My kingdom is not from the world." ³⁷ Then Pilate said to Him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world — to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice." ³⁸ Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in Him."

GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen, Amen.**

PREACHING OF THE WORD

"True Truth"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

James 1:17

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with Whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me

**What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer;
there is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.**

*To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus;
for my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh, how strange and divine,
I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken;
for by my side the Saviour He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
for in my need His power is displayed.

*To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me;
through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh, the night has been won,
and I shall overcome.
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven;
the future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
and He was raised to overthrow the grave.

*To this I hold: my sin has been defeated;
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released,
I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

With every breath I long to follow Jesus;
for He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day I know He will renew me,
until I stand with joy before the throne.

*To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus;
all the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete,
still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
When the race is complete,
still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

Words and music by Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson.
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GOD COMMUNES WITH US

The Lord's Supper is a meal for the family of God, given by Jesus the night before His death to be celebrated until His return. It points back to the cross, forward to the return of King, and spiritually nourishes us for today as we eat and drink in faith.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

The Apostles' Creed

**P: I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried;
He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits on the right hand of God
the Father Almighty;
from there He shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Please come forward to receive the elements from the elders
at the table, then return to your seats.*

*Gluten-free bread and grape juice are available from the trays.
Please HOLD elements until we can all partake TOGETHER.*

SONG OF MEDITATION

Arise, My Soul Arise

**Arise, my soul, arise,
shake off your guilty fears.**

**The bleeding Sacrifice
in my behalf appears:**

**Before the throne my Surety stands,
before the throne my Surety stands;
My name is written on His hands.**

**He ever lives above,
for me, to intercede;
His all-redeeming love,
His precious blood to plead.
His blood atoned for ev'ry race,
His blood atoned for ev'ry race,
and sprinkles now the throne of grace.**

**Five bleeding wounds He bears,
received on Calvary;
they pour effectual prayers,
they strongly plead for me.
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry,
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry,
"Nor let that ransomed sinner die!"**

**My God is reconciled,
His pard'ning voice I hear;
He owns me for His child,
I can no longer fear.**

**With confidence I now draw nigh,
with confidence I now draw nigh,
and "Father, Abba, Father!" cry.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1742). Music by Trudy E. Poirier (2000).
Words: PUB:LIC DOMAIN. Music ©2000 Pear Tree Music.

PRAYER

GOD SENDS US

We end by receiving God's promises to us as His people.
He will be with us as we serve Him in this world,
to the end of all time.

BENEDICTION



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A NOTE ABOUT GIVING

Please make sure that checks are made out to

Ascension Presbyterian Church

and that any automatic payments are being sent
to the **P.O. Box mailing address** listed on the back page.

STAFF & LEADERSHIP

PASTORS:

Rev. Nate Hitchcock

nate@ascension-pca.org

PASTOR EMERITUS:

Rev. Ed Volz

volz.edw@gmail.com

OFFICE MANAGER:

Rina Kroes

office@ascension-pca.org

ELDERS:

Brett Chase

brett@ascension-pca.org

C.J. DeGroot

cjdegroot@ascension-pca.org

Chris Sledge

chris@ascension-pca.org

Philip Suh

philipsuh@ascension-pca.org

Theo Vander Wel

theo@ascension-pca.org

Brian Walsh

brian@ascension-pca.org

DEACONS:

Kyle Bartlett

kyle@ascension-pca.org

Bob Briest

bob_briest@ascension-pca.org

Mike Wheeler

mike@ascension-pca.org

HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR:

Monica Sledge

cmkesledge@gmail.com

NURSERY COORDINATOR:

Rebecca Wheeler

rwheeler2022@outlook.com

MEAL COORDINATOR:

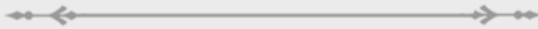
Sheila Bloedow

s.bloedow@comcast.net

MEDIA (SOUND & PROJECTION):

Dave Ball

dave@daveball.net



ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

10:00AM: Worship Service (in-person & livestream)

Meeting Address: 8224 220th Street SW, Edmonds, WA 98026

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 838, Lynnwood, WA 98046

APC Office: Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM–5:00PM)
(425) 286-8617 *office@ascension-pca.org*